

tions, leave in serious doubt. We took occasion during the convention season last year to point out the equivocal nature of the tariff resolutions adopted by the conventions in the leading middle States. The more important of these, with the exception of New York, declared in favor of "a tariff for revenue, so adjusted as to encourage productive interests at home." Among the States which thus declare in favor of combining the ends of revenue and protection are found the important States of Ohio, Indiana, Pennsylvania and Virginia. The pivotal State of New York has made no declaration either for or against protection. A very different condition of things prevails in the great agricultural States of the west, such as Texas, Kansas, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota and Nebraska. The general sentiment in these States is in favor of the reduction of the tariff to a strict revenue standard. It must not be forgotten, however, in any estimate as to the preponderance of free trade or protectionist opinion in the party, that the middle States mentioned are of much more importance to the party in a political way than are the others mentioned.

Speaker Carlisle's election then may be found to have less immediate significance than has been claimed for it in some quarters. In particular the appointments made by him upon Ways and Means Committee may turn out to be by no means an unfailing index as to the ultimate action of the House of Representatives. In truth, the Speaker is confronted with very serious obstacles. Even if the House could agree upon a bill, it is not altogether likely that it would meet with the concurrence of the Senate and the President, who are of the opposite political party—especially in view of the fact that the presidential election is so near. But it is not entirely certain that the House will be able to agree upon a bill. Mr. Carlisle's chief competitor for the Speakership—a man of much weight and influence among his associates—is a steady advocate of protection and may be counted upon to resist strenuously any very decided advance in the direction of free trade. This he will be enabled to do on grounds of political expediency owing to the fact of the approaching presidential election. A similar reason, on the other hand, may not inconceivably influence the free-traders to endeavor to carry through a more extreme programme than they would otherwise attempt, and in this way the breach may be widened. It is understood that Mr. Morrison's plan contemplates a horizontal reduction of duties. This has the appearance of an attempt to secure the vote of the Western free trade States even at the risk of losing the debatable Eastern States. It is reasonably certain that this plan will be opposed by Mr. Randall, and it is difficult to see how it can be carried through if he is firmly supported by those in sympathy with him. On the whole, the immediate outlook appears to be, as has been suggested by our Washington correspondent, rather for a period of congressional discussion upon the tariff than for actual legislation of a general nature regarding it. The conditions referred to, however, are not such as to preclude combinations by which legislation affecting special interests may be carried through, and it is not improbable that special tariff legislation of this sort will be enacted in a number of instances.—From Bradstreet.

U. S. TARIFF REFORM.

The following, according to the *N. Y. Herald* is the programme of the Tariff Reform Association in the United States. It will be observed that though they propose to retain the present duties on sugar, they exclude rice from the taxable importation.

"It has been suggested that an address and pledge shall be circulated, the address presenting these facts:—

That the present taxes have been laid entirely without regard to the amount of revenue really required.

That the whole sum needed for the support of the government, economically administered, can be raised from the people by the present taxes on spirits, beer and tobacco, and the duties on foreign wines, spirits, beer, tobacco and cigars, sugar, silks, linens, furs, jewelry and a few other articles of luxury, such as precious stones.

That this being the case, undisputed by anybody, the welfare and prosperity of the people require that they be at once relieved

of all other and superfluous taxes and duties.

That if any State desires to foster a particular industry within its limits it may effectually do this by the provision of a State bounty, which can be laid by the State Legislature.

That the federal taxation cannot, without great and proved abuses, be used for such purposes, and that Congress ought to lay taxes and duties upon the whole people for revenue only.

The idea that the reformers have of carrying their point is embodied in the following extract from the *Herald*:

Of the members of the present House of Representatives 115 hold their seats by a majority of less than 1,000 or by a plurality. Of these 58 are democrats and 57 are republicans, which means that, in proportion to their numbers in the House, considerably more republicans hold by the narrow majority of less than 1,000 than democrats.

Of the 106 democrats who voted to make Mr. Carlisle Speaker, 32 hold their seats by less than 1,000 majority; of the 52 who voted for Mr. Randall, 13 got under 1,000 majority; of the 30 who voted for Mr. Cox 11 were chosen by like small majorities.

In all these 115 districts, democratic and republican, 500 votes, or less, will next fall suffice to change the political complexion of the district. Suppose in each of these 115 districts a tariff reform organization were to be formed, whose members should pledge themselves to vote for that candidate, irrespective of party, who would pledge himself, if elected, to vote, also regardless of party, for a thorough reform of the tariff, a tariff for revenue only, a tax system devised to collect from the people only so much as is needed for the support of the government, economically administered, and collect this by taxes and duties on the fewest possible articles, and these, so far as possible, luxuries.

Such an organization in any one of these 115 districts, would become at once a formidable power. Whenever it got together 500 members, voters, it might hold the controlling power in the district. In most of these 115 districts it would not be difficult to create, between now and next November, a tariff reform club of at least five hundred members. Such clubs it has already been proposed to form in several localities, and a study of the districts which give small majorities shows that in a considerable proportion of them, those which are not hopelessly protectionist, a tariff reform club could force the nomination of a pledged tariff reformer.

There has been some correspondence on this project among leading reformers looking to a general movement, with a plain pledge or programme common to all such clubs all over the country.

MR. MORRISON'S TARIFF BILL.

Representative Morrison completed his Tariff bill on the 4th February and during the call of States introduced it in the House. The bill was prepared the previous week, with the exception of placing a few articles on the free list, concerning which Mr. Morrison was undecided.

A reduction of twenty per cent is made in numerous articles, while in a few cases the reduction is greater or less than this rate. A provision prevents any reduction to a rate lower than in the Morrill act of 1861. The title of the bill is:—"An act to reduce import duties and war tariff taxes." It provides—That on and after the 1st day of July, 1884, in lieu of the duties and rates of duty imposed by law on the importation of the goods, wares and merchandise mentioned in the several schedules of "An Act to Reduce Internal Revenue Taxation and for other purposes," approved March 3, 1883, and hereinafter enumerated, there shall be levied, collected and paid eighty per cent of the several duties and rates of duty now imposed on said articles severally—that is to say—on all the articles mentioned in:—

Schedule I—Cotton and cotton goods.

Schedule J—Hemp, jute and flax goods other than jute butts.

Schedule K—Wool and woollens.

Schedule C—Metals other than ores.

Schedule M—Books, papers, &c.

Schedule E—Sugar.

Schedule F—Tobacco.

Schedule D—Wood and woodenware, except as hereinafter provided.

The following part of the bill enumerates in detail a list of articles which Mr. Morrison proposes shall be exempt from import duty, and which will not in any way affect this country.

LOSS OF THE S. S. CITY OF COLUMBUS.

One of the most harrowing catastrophes that has occurred during the winter was the loss of the iron steamer City of Columbus off Gay Head, while on a voyage from Boston to Savannah, Ga. This ill-fated steamer left Boston the 17th January, bound for Savannah, under the command of Capt. E. Wright, carrying 80 first-class and 22 steerage passengers, about one third of whom were ladies and children, and a crew numbering 45 persons. That night the wind blew a hurricane from the northwest and a tremendous sea was running. At 3:45 A. M. the following morning, with Gay Head light bearing south half east, the vessel struck on the reef outside Devil's Bridge buoy. She immediately filled and keeled over, the water breaking in and flooding the port side of the saloon. Nearly all of the passengers hurried to the deck, most of them wearing life preservers. But the majority of the passengers were at once swept into the sea and perished. The boats were swamped almost immediately. Several passengers left the vessel on a life raft, and have not been heard from since. About forty of the men took to the rigging where they remained for some hours, when a life boat put off from Gay Head and took away seven passengers, one of whom died afterwards. Shortly after noon another life boat put off to the distressed vessel, and meanwhile revenue cutter Dexter came along and sent off two boats. Twenty-one men were taken from the wreck and placed aboard the Dexter, four of whom died afterwards. All the persons on the wreck having been taken off, the Dexter proceeded to New Bedford. The total number of persons saved was twenty-three.

As to the responsibility for this shipwreck the *Vineyard Gazette* says there is the widest divergence of opinion. The only agreement seems to be in narrowing the accountability down to one of two men—the captain or his second mate—the latter of whom is dead and cannot answer, and the former of whom is represented as entirely crushed under the mountain of woe which is the outcome of somebody's mistake, and who, culpable or not, will be haunted to his grave by the despairing shrieks of his perishing company and all the horrors of that dreadful night.

EGYPTIAN AFFAIRS.

Stone Pasha, probably the best informed man on Egyptian affairs in the country, said on the 7th February: "The moral effect of the two recent disasters will be very great, not only in the Soudan but in Egypt proper and in all the Moslem countries. It will make tens of thousands of Mussulmans believe that Mohammed Ahmed is really the Mahdi, and it will be more than ever difficult to make the Mussulmans fight against him. It would be surprising if the news of these late victories does not cause serious agitation in Arabia, as well as on the frontiers of Egypt. Gen. Gordon's position is rendered vastly more precarious. The logical result will almost certainly be the uprising of more Bedouin tribes in the Egyptian dependencies, and possibly the uprising of the Bedouins in Arabia, Syria and Palestine. It would not be surprising at all should it also create serious trouble in Tripoli, Tunis and Algiers. El Mahdi will not stop short of the conquest of Egypt. If this happens, the only remedy for the present state of affairs will be for England to send 50,000 British troops, and 50,000 heathen Indians into the country. The rebellion cannot be conquered with four times the force now in Egypt. The season is advancing, when in one month it will be so warm in Soudan as to make it difficult for British troops to act there. In one month there will be no water for the troops marching to Kordofan. In June the rainy season of Kordofan commences, and from that time until October the climate is fatal to European troops. General Gordon is helpless, unless he gets proper reinforcements. The British Government is clearly guilty of two crimes: First—It has failed to protect the Khedive, and not only so, but it has prevented him from using the resources of his own country to protect it, and has prevented any friend from assisting him or his people; and the second crime is to Gordon alone to effect what the Government could and ought to have given him a powerful force to do. The British Government knew well that the Sultan had no money to pay for an expedition into Soudan. It prevented the Khedive from using the money raised by the heavy taxation of its fellahs for the purpose of paying Turkish troops to defend his country, requiring the money to go to bondholders and to the support of the British troops of

occupation. This, if understood rightly, causes the resignation of the late Egyptian Ministry. They desired to use the resources of this country for supporting the Turkish troops to reconquer the Soudan, but the British authorities would not permit it."

MRS. LANGTRY'S VIEW OF AMERICAN WOMEN.

"And what impression," asked the reporter, "has the American women made upon you, Mrs. Langtry? What do you think of her?" "What a question to ask one!" and Mrs. Langtry threw up her hands in astonishment. "I really don't think I can answer that. I don't think it would be delicate for me to discuss the matter. I think it cannot be expected that I should pass judgment on the American women." "But if you must have some impressions of their manners, appearance, dress, etc. It would undoubtedly interest American women to learn what the English beauty thinks of them." "Really this question has so surprised me that I don't know what to say, but if you think it will really be of interest I will try and tell you what I think. In the first place, I think American women have very pretty faces, so bright and winning. One sees many more pretty faces here than in England. Then I think they have beautiful hair and very pretty hands and feet." "And their figures?" "Well, I must take the liberty to say that I think their figures are generally bad. The American standard of figure is altogether too plump for me; but, again, I do not see why my opinion should be of any interest in the matter. I have been called 'seraggy' in a town I visited." "And where was that?" "Well, I think it must have been in Pittsburg. I think the most disagreeable things were said of me there." "Whom do you consider the most beautiful American woman you have seen?" "Mary Anderson, decidedly." "But Mary Anderson is not over-plump." "She is not. I should have said the over-plumpness I spoke of refers principally to the married beauties I have seen. It struck me as very funny," Mrs. Langtry continued, "that in every town I visited the local papers, in noticing my first appearance, led off with the remark that their own town was exclusively noted for its beauties, and with such an array of native beauty, it was not surprising that the famous English beauty's face made but little impression on the audience. Then they would begin to notice the performances, 'As far as Mrs. Langtry's ability as an actress is concerned, &c.'"

"In which town did you see the prettiest women?" "In Baltimore. It struck me that every woman there was a beauty. And I think that Baltimore was the only town that did not boast of its native beauties." "Do you admire the dress of American women?" "I cannot say candidly that I do; on the whole, I think they dress too smartly for the street, and too simply for the theater. I think they mix their colors badly, and have too many bows and ends on their dresses. To my taste a woman cannot be too simply dressed for the street. A dress of simple neutral tints pleases me best. I saw a woman in the street the other day wearing a grey ulster, a blue dress, and scarlet kid gloves. Just think of that!" And Mrs. Langtry almost shuddered with horror at the thought of scarlet gloves, "and she also had a bouquet de corsage of daffodils. That was rather a gay mixture of colors, was it not?" The reporter sympathized with Mrs. Langtry for on his way to the Alhambra he had met a woman wearing a mauve velvet dress with a blue satin skirt, and a bonnet of blue straw, trimmed with crimson velvet, out of which appeared to be growing pink ears of barley. The reporter, by way of contrast, somewhat reservedly remarked on the richness of Mrs. Langtry's costume. "You may call it handsome and perhaps it is and it might look too fine on the street, but I am going out driving. But it is really a very simple dress—a peacock velvet overdress over a petticoat of turquoise blue, veiled with moonlight jet." "You want to know what I think of the manners of the American women? I think them charming, so free and open. The American women are so independent and there is such a delightful lack of self-consciousness about them. They are, too, very bright in conversation and the freedom and frankness of their manner impresses one instantly; it is so different from the reserve of the general run of English women." You said that they did not dress well enough for the theatre?" "Well, what I meant to say was that I like to see ladies in full dress at the theatre, or they might, if they come in bonnet, wear the charming little theatre bonnets one sees in the French theatres. These big hats that women wear in American theatres I think are abomin-

able." Mrs. Langtry's maid entered at this point in the interview and brought a spray of forget-me-nots and ferns. They were to be attached to her parasol. They were tied up with a blue bow. Mrs. Langtry caught sight of it and said laughingly, "Now see that bow fly," and she tore it away and threw it down. "I won't have any bows about me," she said; "not even on my parasol. Yes, you can safely say that I am making war against bows and ends." "Well, to sum up on the American woman," Mrs. Langtry said returning to the subject, "I think her very beautiful and charming, and I think she has very strong national characteristics. I would know an American woman anywhere. In what way? Well, principally from her frank and open manner and her independence." "What do you think of the fashions in America? Are they behind the European fashions?" "Well, I should say the American style in dress, in cuts and all that, is about a year behind that of Paris. At least I find the American dressmakers I have visited offer me styles I saw a year ago in Paris. Talking of American dress," Mrs. Langtry added, "I think American women think we dress very badly in England, and I have heard it said that I dress fairly well for an English woman. But I must say that English women dress admirably and the Princess of Wales has set us a charming example in simplicity of dress."

A NEW STEAMER FOR THE PACIFIC TRADE.

The new steamer Santa Rosa, belonging to the Pacific Coast Steamship Company of San Francisco, is now nearly ready for sea at New York. She is 326 feet long on the keel, and 346 feet over all, 40 feet 7½ inches beam, and 22 feet 11 inches depth of hold, her tonnage being 2800 net. Her engines are of the inverted direct acting pattern, cylinders 45 and 36 inches in diameter, and 54-inch stroke, her propeller being 20 feet in diameter. Her main saloon is well aft the mizzen-mast directly in the center. The social hall on the upper deck, with a large glass dome, is described as a beautiful apartment. The cabins, halls, etc., are finished off with "linenusta Walton," a new material of linseed oil and pulp, the Santa Rosa being the first American steamer in which it has been used. Cabins and staterooms are fitted with the best Axminster carpets. She has accommodations for 175 first-class and 100 steerage passengers, and immediately on her arrival at San Francisco she will be placed on the San Diego route, and it is expected that she will reduce the time between the two ports materially.

FLOOD DANGERS IN THE WEST.

On the 17th ult. the New York *Herald* pointed out that the impending "January thaw" would greatly augment the danger of floods. The breaking up of the ice in the head waters of the Ohio was the signal for a general rise in the river which, with the movement in the upper Mississippi, threatens a flood between Cairo and Memphis. The situation just now in the lower Mississippi is not alarming, but a single heavy and general rain storm crossing the Ohio Valley at this time would probably precipitate a dangerous flood extending to and below Cairo.

The present rise in the Ohio is not due to very heavy rains, but to the thawing temperature which has prevailed throughout its basin the four days from the 28th to the 31st ult. The passing cold waves may temporarily freeze the river's head waters; but unless the cold weather should be protracted longer than is probable at this part of the season the winter's accumulation of snow and ice along its banks and its tributaries will, if suddenly liquified, give trouble. This is made more probable by the fact that the precipitation in the Ohio Valley during the past month, when summed up, is slightly in excess of that usually recorded in January and exceeds by .35 of an inch that of January, 1883, just before the great flood.

Should this month's rainfall and temperature be deficient the States bordering the Ohio may escape any serious inundation. But until the middle of the month at least the oscillations of the river should be closely watched.

The Governor of Berber telegraphs that General Gordon has arrived in that province. A letter from Colonel Stewart, General Gordon's military secretary, sent from Korosko, just before they started on their journey through the desert. It states that a son of the Governor of Berber was their only escort. He said that General Gordon had sent a message to troublesome Sheikhs, saying, "Meet me at Khartoum, if you want peace. I am for peace. If you want war, I am ready." Two correspondents were killed at the recent fight near Tokar.